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tion of it is hopelessly barren, or even ill-suited for pastoral purposes. Walker passed through much rich volcanic soil; whilst Landsborough describes even the poorest and driest he traversed as "fair sheep country."

"It only remains that I should notice the highly valuable Report made by Captain Norman himself on the whole expedition, including his ascent of the Flinders River in boats for nearly 50 miles; and it will be impossible, I am sure, to peruse his Journal without perceiving, in spite of the modest and plain language in which it is kept, that to the prudence, energy, perseverance, and skill of this officer the successful issue of the voyage and the safety of the exploring parties are mainly due.

"But for the exertions of himself and those under his orders in getting off the *Firefly* tender when wrecked in Torres Straits, and towing her round to the Gulf, the horses on board must have been lost, and the designs of Mr. Landsborough frustrated; whilst to his timely forethought, in at once putting all hands on reduced rations after the delay and loss of stores occasioned by this accident, is solely to be attributed his ability to keep his ship a month at least longer on the berth than was anticipated, so as to admit of that gentleman's return to the Albert, and also his being enabled to supply both expeditions with fresh supplies for a five months' return journey overland."

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5. *Extracts of a Despatch from His Excellency SIR GEORGE BOWEN to the DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, in reference to Mr. Landsborough's arrival at Menindie, and Mr. Walker's arrival at Port Denison, dated Queensland, July 8th, 1862.*

"I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit a copy of the letter in which Mr. Landsborough, the Queensland explorer, reports his arrival in the settled districts of New South Wales, with the entire party under his command, 'in safety and in good health,' after having crossed the Australian continent from the Gulf of Carpentaria.

"This eminent success will be most important in its results to the progress and settlement of this colony, while it is very gratifying to myself and to the members of my Government, as Mr. Landsborough (a resident for many years past in Queensland) was selected by us, and his equipment and instructions were prepared under our personal directions and supervision. The safe return of this exploring party and of that under the command of Mr. Walker (which reached Port Denison in Northern Queensland a short time back) are also subjects for general congratulation. It will be remembered

that the primary object of both expeditions was to search for Messrs. Burke and Wills, the Victorian explorers; and it would have been sad indeed if the Australian wilderness had swallowed up fresh victims, and especially if men had perished while seeking for other men who had been already long dead.

“Mr. Landsborough’s triumphant and comparatively easy success proves, moreover, that for Australian exploration a practical ‘bushman’ as leader, and a lightly-equipped party, are to be preferred to costly and unwieldy preparations. Some judicious remarks have been published by a perfectly impartial witness, a public writer in the colony of New South Wales, which bore no small share in the recent expeditions. They are as follows:—‘Few disasters have happened to expeditions headed by practical bushmen. Experience seems to show plainly enough that that sort of ability which is only to be acquired by long residence on the outskirts of civilization is, after all, the best qualification for an explorer. Scientific knowledge, courage, and enthusiasm, are excellent qualities; but, even when possessed to the full, they do not compensate for the absence of practical experience of bush life.’

“It has been farther remarked, with equal truth, that since the lamentable fate of Burke and Wills had left no object to be gained by following their footsteps, it is a subject for congratulation that both Walker and Landsborough failed to trace them; for by the independent journeys into which the last-named explorers have thus been diverted, they have added largely to our previous knowledge of Australian geography. Landsborough’s route lies intermediate between those of Burke and Walker. Five separate routes have now been traced from the settled districts to the head of the Gulf of Carpentaria; those of Leichhardt and of Augustus Gregory by the valley of the Burdekin; that of Walker from the River Alice on the Western water-parting; that of Landsborough more westerly still; and that of Burke from Cooper Creek to the River Flinders. When what is now known of the interior of the North-eastern quarter of the Australian continent (forming the territory of Queensland) shall have been fully delineated, there will not be much blank space left on the map of this colony. ‘The main features of the physical geography of this district have now been determined, and all that remains is to fill in the details. This will soon be done by the squatters, who have before them the encouraging assurance that the land is well grassed and sufficiently watered. Grass and water—these are the two great requisites for pastoral occupation. Let these be furnished, and Australian colonization can enter upon its first phase.’

“The able writer from whom I have already so largely quoted sums up thus:—‘The process of discovery has been expedited, first, by the successful journey of Burke and Wills, and, secondly, by the two expeditions that were sent out to look for them before their untimely fate was known. The result has been to show that Queensland possesses an immense range of good pastoral country, and, as the laws hold out sufficient inducement to squatters to take up the land, the future prosperity of that colony is placed beyond all doubt. In fact, there appears to be no large amount of desert or sterile country within its territory. There are considerable patches of “scrub,” of sand, and of stony ground, but nothing that is worthy of being called by the name of a desert.’

“On the whole, the recent discoveries have not only opened a safe and easy route from the already settled districts of Queensland to the new territory lately annexed to its north-western boundary (between the 141st and the 138th meridians of longitude), but they have, in fact, practically added to the known resources of the British empire in Australia millions of acres, presenting a fresh and noble field for English capital and enterprise.”

The PRESIDENT said this Expedition of Mr. Landsborough was projected in Victoria, at the suggestion of the Governor, Sir Henry Barkly. The despatch of Sir George Bowen described the remarkable journey which Mr. Landsborough afterwards made from north to south, completing, for the first time after the great Expedition of Burke and Wills in the previous year, the extraordinary feat of traversing entirely the continent of Australia. In mentioning the names of Burke and Wills it was his duty to say, though Burke was at the head of the Expedition, that equal merit was due to Wills, as a daring, adventurous, and successful explorer. The Gold Medal of the Society was awarded to the representatives of Burke, for it could only be given to the head of the party; but at the same time every geographer felt that a medal was equally due to Wills, as the astronomer and geographer of the Expedition. He had obtained the consent of the Council to write to the father of Mr. Wills, stating expressly their conviction upon this point, and the regret that they had not two medals to give, or they would certainly have presented one to Wills.

The PRESIDENT then read portions of a letter from Sir Henry Barkly, under whose government the Landsborough Expedition from Victoria emanated. It was from this colony of Victoria that Captain Norman was sent with two vessels round to the Gulf of Carpentaria. That was the commencement of the series of successes of which they had just heard the details. In his letter Sir Henry Barkly alluded to the reception of the present of a gold watch, which the Society made to that fine old soldier, King, the only survivor of the Expedition of Burke and Wills.

The PRESIDENT added that he had taken the liberty of informing the Premier of the existence of Cape Palmerston in Queensland, of which his Lordship was not cognisant; and, as two important rivers had been discovered to the north of it, he begged to call their attention to the spot. With regard to the observation immediately preceding, he was happy to see present Sir Richard McDonnell, the Governor, who had recently returned from South Australia; and he would ask him to explain the objects he had in view in

sending out Mr. McKinlay, who appeared to have deviated from the instructions he had received, and, like a true bushman, to have found his way through in a different direction. They had heard in the course of the evening of the great exploration of Stuart, which also took place under the auspices of Sir Richard McDonnell. That explorer was the first to reach the watershed of the north, but he did not absolutely reach the sea. He understood that Governor Kennedy, of Western Australia, was also in the room. It was under his government that Frank Gregory made most remarkable explorations on that side of the continent. Though the subject of Western Australia had not been touched upon, he hoped Governor Kennedy would give them some account of what had been done in that colony, so that they might have in one view the great additions to our geographical knowledge which had been made by these various adventurous explorers.

SIR RICHARD McDONNELL, late Governor of South Australia, said, in reference to the excursion of Mr. McKinlay, it appeared from a telegram lately received that that gentleman had come out on the east coast of Australia, near Rockhampton. The instructions to Mr. McKinlay were that he should, after an exploration from Adelaide to the east, make for Central Mount Stuart; then he was to examine the west of Lake Gregory, and to search in the adjacent country for gold, which Mr. Stuart had stated was likely to be found there; he was then to return to Adelaide if he met with Mr. Stuart, whose destiny was now a subject of very great anxiety, and if he did not meet him near Central Mount Stuart, he was to return south to Adelaide. It was only fair to anticipate that McKinlay, who was a very able and experienced bushman, would be able to give very good reasons for his deviation from the route which it was intended he should follow.

He might observe with reference to the name of Stuart, which is given to the mountain that was considered by its discoverer, Mr. Stuart, to occupy the most central point of the continent, it was a proof of the modesty which is so often allied to true greatness, that when Mr. Stuart brought the map to him he called it "Mount Sturt." He, however, thought it was only fair, as he did not see Stuart's name upon any part of the map, that he should insert another letter, and give this mountain the name of Stuart.

The Papers which he had heard read had brought most vividly and satisfactorily to his mind a truth, of which he had long been convinced. He knew there had been great advocates for a desert in Central Australia, and great advocates for large central seas; but he thought that, before the light of recent experience and increased knowledge, both the deserts and the inland seas were fast disappearing. He was surprised to read in Australia some accounts of the proceedings of this Society, in which great stress had been laid on the magnitude of an inland sea reported by Mr. Stuart, which was in his opinion identical with Lake Gregory, and was part of Lake Torrens, the original horseshoe lake that Mr. Sturt gave upon his map. Mr. Stuart had now left on a great expedition, the entire cost of which was defrayed by the South-Australian Government, on the condition and understanding that all maps and charts, and in fact everything of discovery connected with it, were to become the property of the South-Australian Government; and he was very naturally surprised to find that in London there were many persons who possessed the information of the existence of a large inland sea, with which the Government, who had fitted out Mr. Stuart, were totally unacquainted. He imagined that that inland sea was fast drying up: in fact, he did not see any great reason for the advocates of the inland sea to congratulate themselves upon it; it is a mere depression of land which at one time was found by Mr. Goyder full of fresh water, and at another time by Mr. Stuart and others just a basin, with a little liquid brine in the centre. No doubt at one time, as the members of the Society were well aware, it was supposed that there was a large horseshoe around the inhabited

and settled districts of South Australia, which barred all ingress into the interior, and that to advance into it was to advance into a region of slush, liquid brine, and mud. All this has disappeared. We now knew of three crossings over it. He had himself crossed over and had gone a considerable distance north, and he was one of the first that went across. It had long been a matter of great interest to him to know what was in the interior of Australia, and, as far as he knew, it was neither that rich country nor was it so barren as many had been in the habit of supposing. There were, however, materials enough for the development of wealth hereafter; but he imagined that development would be slow, from the purely pastoral character of the country. He would advert to a fact in which he felt a just and natural pride, namely, that the Government of South Australia, with which he had recently been connected, was the first to give life and impetus to those movements which, commencing with the explorations of Mr. Stuart, had been succeeded by those of Burke and Landsborough. It was to the colony of South Australia, neither so wealthy nor so populous as Victoria and New South Wales, that we were indebted for this new movement, for there had been an apathy about these matters since the explorations of Mr. Sturt many years ago. The instructions given to Mr. Stuart by the South-Australian Government, which differed widely from those given by the colonists of New South Wales and Victoria to their explorers, were that he should make his way to the Victoria River, and not towards the Gulf of Carpentaria. He might appeal to their common sense whether it was not of very great consequence to this country, to open a direct route by the island of Timor with our Indian possessions, in connection with a river which is more navigable than any to be found at the Gulf of Carpentaria. The distance was many hundred miles shorter between Victoria River and Adelaide, and there was a large amount of stock ready to cross the continent, consisting of cattle, sheep, and horses, which have become great articles of commerce with India. It was evident by a reference to the map that it was much easier to pass up Lake Gregory to the Victoria River than to take the cattle and sheep to the Gulf of Carpentaria, from the shores of which there was a long and somewhat dangerous navigation. If cotton was to be grown in any part of Australia with success, it would be eminently so in the neighbourhood of the plains near the Victoria River, which were exceedingly fertile in consequence of an alluvial deposit; and he had no doubt, if a communication with India were established, that part of Australia would become the site of a very flourishing colony. The Society should bear in mind that South Australians had always had before them the idea that their explorations should connect Adelaide with Victoria River. It could not be denied that they were moved to these considerations somewhat by motives of self-interest, and he had no doubt the South Australians thought that eventually they might establish a telegraph, by the nearest route to the Victoria River, with India and Europe, much more readily than by the circuitous route which has been before the public for some time. When that plan was read before the South-Australian Government, he had influence enough with its ministers always to say, "When we see the reason why we cannot go straight across the continent, we will then consider why we must go two or three thousand miles round." He hoped, on Mr. Stuart's return, he would be able to satisfactorily prove the practicability of the scheme to which he had alluded.

He had heard with very great pleasure an observation which had fallen from Sir Roderick, to the effect that he could not understand any people in this country talking of a severance from colonies which had always manifested the most loyal disposition towards the mother country. Having administered the government of several of Her Majesty's colonies for the last thirteen or fourteen years, he must say that nothing was more painful to his feelings than the levity with which that subject had been treated by some of the highest in the land. In the Australian colonies there was a depth of feeling and a depth of affection

for the mother country, which was in no way better evinced than when there was suffering at home, to the relief of which the colonies were always so ready to subscribe. If the colonies did not add to the power and strength of this country, it would be simply because our statesmen did not know to avail themselves of them. It would not be the fault of the colonists, but the fault of those who ought to be able to make use of the connection in a manner to increase the power of the mother country, by uniting in one common brotherhood the different members that compose this great empire. He assured the Society that nothing could be more untrue than that there is any talk in Australia of severance from the mother country: they never discussed such a subject—nothing could be more unpopular. If any one were to broach such a subject, he would be scouted by every one. It was only at home, he said, and occasionally in Parliament, that such things are mentioned. He must say, having filled the responsible position he had for so many years, he was happy to embrace this early opportunity of expressing the great pleasure with which he had heard the President make that observation, and the great pleasure with which he had listened to their expression of sympathy with that sentiment.

SIR CHARLES NICHOLSON, Bart., said that during the last eleven months he had had an opportunity of visiting a portion of the north-east coast, as far as the new settlement of Port Denison. This was the extreme northern point of colonization on the eastern coast at present. The progress of settlement in Queensland along the coast had been very rapid and was most encouraging. A most magnificent country had been discovered, and the estuary of two or three rivers had also been lately traced. It was thought when Mr. Dalrymple fell in with the Burdekin, that a navigable mouth of the Burdekin might be found somewhere about Cape Upstart; but it had since been ascertained that the estuary of the river consisted of a number of small branches, not any one of which was navigable by a boat. However the country around Port Denison is exceedingly fine, consisting of rich pastoral and open forest-land. He was there in December last, and he saw a party of young squatters who had been exploring as far as the table-land behind Rockingham Bay, what is called Leichhardt's Basaltic Table-land, about 100 miles to the west of Rockingham Bay. They had been absent five months in making this exploration, accompanied by a black boy, and of course they had to undergo a great many trials during that period. This, however, was a matter of course with those who are occupied in searching for runs. There was no doubt that the most successful explorers are the old bushmen who have been so engaged.

One of the most interesting tracts lately opened up is the valley of the Fitzroy. The Fitzroy River is certainly the largest tidal river that has been discovered, with the exception of the Victoria in the north-west, in any part of Australia. The Victoria River drains a tract of country of not less than fifty millions of acres, and the whole of that country is of the finest possible description.

Sir Richard McDonnell had just suggested that the great field for the growth of cotton was likely to be on the north-west near the Victoria River. Possibly that might be the case; but certainly a finer country and one better adapted for the growth of cotton could not be found in any part of the world than in the central and northern parts of Queensland. He might observe, as an interesting fact, that the growth of cotton is no longer a speculation in that country. There are now 200 bales of cotton shipped at Moreton Bay, which are expected daily in England. The legislature of Queensland had shown a most commendable anxiety to promote in every way the cultivation of this great staple, and in doing so they had perhaps transgressed against some of the maxims of political economy. For instance, they had offered a bounty of tenpence a pound upon sea-island cotton, and fivepence a pound upon all common cotton that might be grown in the colony within the next two years. The only thing the colonies are deficient in is the common want of labour.

With reference to the Papers which had been read, he would venture to ask Sir Richard McDonnell whether he was quite satisfied as to the fact of Stuart having reached the extreme point to the north laid down in his journal, because Mr. Landsborough and many of the best judges in Australia had very great doubt as to his having reached that point. He had been informed that Mr. Stuart was not expert in taking observations, and that, in point of fact, his calculations were formed on the mere "dead reckoning."

SIR RICHARD McDONNELL said he must state at once that Mr. Stuart is an accurate observer, and is considered one of the best practical surveyors in South Australia. He was brought up to the profession.

SIR CHARLES NICHOLSON, in continuation, said he differed from Sir Richard McDonnell as to the route he had indicated being the great highway from India to Australia. He believed the only mode of access into the interior will be by following the dividing range. Now, one of the great results of Mr. Landsborough's journey was this: he demonstrated that the great eastern coast range, instead of being limited in the north to Cape York, bifurcates and extends towards the north-west, forming the watershed of the rivers which flow into the Gulf of Carpentaria on the north, and of the affluents of the Darling on the south. It is by following that dividing range, a great portion of which consists of open forest-land fit for pasture, that he believed will be made the great high road between West Australia and Australia generally, and India; because certainly, from the evidence we had of Mr. Stuart's account of the land, the country he passed through, if not a desert, is of a very unpromising character. There is a great deficiency of water, and it is a country not likely to be available for the transit of commerce or passengers. It is an unfortunate circumstance that none of the rivers which flow into the Gulf of Carpentaria are navigable. They all have bars at their mouths, and are consequently inapplicable to the purposes of commerce.

The Legislative Council of Queensland were very anxious to establish a settlement at the head of the gulf, and they obtained all the evidence available upon the subject. It appears that the greatest depth of water at the bar of the Albert, Nicholson, and Flinders, and of all the rivers that flow there, does not exceed 5 feet, and that the only safe anchorage is in Investigator Straits, just off Wellesley Island. He quite agreed with Sir Richard McDonnell, that the most eligible and interesting spot to which the attention of colonists should now be turned is the valley of the Victoria River. Looking to its proximity to India, to the fact that it is undoubtedly the largest tidal river in that part of the north coast, that the tide there rises some 30 feet, and that according to the evidence of Mr. Augustus Gregory there is a fine country there, it is most desirable that steps should be taken with a view of determining its character and forming a settlement in that place.

The Government of Queensland were quite alive to the interest attaching to all these great questions, and he believed that at this moment Sir George Bowen, influenced by the representations made at the instance of the Geographical Society, was at Cape York, with the view to form an establishment there. In this way the whole of the east coast might be said to be more or less occupied. It was proposed by Mr. Herbert, the Colonial Secretary of Queensland, who was now in England, that the local Government should form another establishment in Rockingham Bay. That would form the extreme settlement at present, the next point being Port Denison. One additional point of occupation between Cape York and Rockingham Bay would complete the chain of settlements, so that steamers could navigate the whole distance, and take in a supply of coal; in short, open up the whole of that coast.

He might also mention another fact with reference to the line followed by Burke and Wills. There are certainly some doubts whether they were quite so far to the west as they represented. Mr. Landsborough told him just before



he started on his expedition that he had fallen in with their tracks on some former excursions of his, made on his own private account, at a point to the east of the 141st meridian, and his impression was that they were much further to the east than they believed themselves to be.

He would just take the opportunity of adding his tribute of admiration for the zeal and ability of Mr. Landsborough. Among Australian discoverers he was as an explorer *facile princeps*. He had been engaged for years in bush-life; he had been out for months together, simply with a black boy, searching for country; and he possessed in every respect those qualities which are calculated to fit him for the task of the most difficult explorations.

He ventured, with great submission, to subscribe the impression of his opinion as to what had been said by Sir Richard McDonnell with regard to the feelings of attachment entertained by the whole of the Australian colonies towards the parent state, and the deep regret which he, in common with others, felt at hearing the speculations indulged in by various persons in England as to what can hardly be otherwise regarded than as a dissolution of the British empire. It was nothing more nor less than a proposition for abandoning those colonies in which there is as much loyalty and deep affection towards the institutions of England as there is in any part of Britain itself. He had been in Australia twenty-five years, and such a thing as separation was never alluded to in the colonies. It was only when he came to England that he heard gentlemen in high office and holding distinguished positions propound these theories, which, he was glad to say, are not in any degree responded to by the colonists.

SIR STUART DONALDSON said he was not going to take the part of South Australia against the North, or of Queensland against Victoria; but there had, in the course of the discussion this evening on Australian discovery, been what appeared to him a *casus omissus*, which they ought not to separate without noticing. Among the explorers to whom so much credit was due there was one name which had not been mentioned—that of the unfortunate Leichhardt. With all due respect to those whose names would no doubt become immortalised, he thought the name of Leichhardt ought not to be forgotten. He recollected the colony long enough to remember when Leichhardt went out—unaided by Government, with nothing but private subscriptions and his own indomitable pluck to guide him through the untrodden wilds of the North-Western interior—on an expedition in 1846. He was lost, to all appearance, and for eighteen months was never heard of. He not only went from the centre part of Queensland right up to Cape York, but he descended again to the south along the peninsula; he coasted the Carpentaria Gulf, and then went across all the northern watershed which empties itself into that gulf, until he arrived at Port Essington, where he was first discovered to be alive. His track, on the map, would appear three times the length of any except Landsborough and Stuart's, but it had not even been mentioned during the discussion. He desired to rectify the omission. He could not forget the sensation in the colony when it was thought Leichhardt was lost, nor the joy that prevailed at Sidney when the news came, "Leichhardt is alive!" Again he started from New South Wales, resolved to cross the entire continent or perish in the attempt, and has never since been heard of. Now that he was no more, the couplet of the poet on the possibility of finding Leichhardt's grave seemed to him to be singularly appropriate under present circumstances:—

"How shall the pilgrim hail the hour,  
Beneath the drooping myall's gloom \*  
To sit at eve and watch an hour,  
And pluck a leaf on Leichhardt's tomb!"

He felt he could not sit still and hear all these encouraging eulogies on modern

\* *Myall*, the scented tree known as "violet wood."

explorers without alluding in a few words to the honour and glory of the man who, under great difficulties, and with no one's track to assist him, was one of the greatest and most successful explorers in the whole of Australia, and intreating this great assemblage, while honouring the living, not to forget the lost Ludvig Leichhardt.

The PRESIDENT begged to assure Sir S. Donaldson that before the next meeting the line of Leichhardt's route would be properly delineated on the map. And when delineated it would be seen that his excellent friend had somewhat exaggerated the amount of exploration of that most illustrious traveller. Leichhardt had received the gold medal of the Society, which would show the high estimation in which he was held by us. Besides Leichhardt, the name of Sturt had not been mentioned in the papers which had been read; and, for his own part, he considered Sturt one of the greatest of Australian explorers. They had not gone into the whole history of Australian exploration, but were confining their attention to the labours of Landsborough and Stuart.

MR. KENNEDY, the Governor of Western Australia, observed that he had lately returned from that almost unknown part of Australia called Western Australia, a district which, he believed, could justly boast of being less known than any other part of her Majesty's dominions. He expressed his regret at being unable to add much to their information respecting that portion of Australia; but this ignorance of Western Australia was no fault of his, for during the time he held the reins of government there had been no less than three explorations, more or less important. The first was undertaken towards the eastern district, directly from the west to the east, to the place called Mount Kennedy. That was carried out by a very enterprising band of young settlers, and they found a very fair country in that direction. Up to that time—and that was a matter of a year or a year and a half ago—it was believed that that part of the country was barren and unfit for settlement. He had, however, come to the conclusion (which was wholly the reverse of what had formerly been currently believed) that it was a fair country, and fit for settlement. Another exploration farther to the west and north was undertaken by Mr. Frank Gregory up the Gascoigne. During that expedition he discovered some very fair country. The same gentleman, within a very recent period, attempted to join his exploration from Nichol Bay with that towards the centre of Australia, reached by his brother, Mr. Augustus Gregory. He, however, failed in this attempt. But what he discovered had been fully placed before the Geographical Society by Mr. Gregory and by the official reports. Mr. Kennedy added, he had no doubt that a very large portion of that unknown tract would turn out to be perfectly suitable for settlement and habitation; and that, in all probability ere many years had passed, that now almost unknown part of Australia would become the happy homes of thousands of Englishmen.

Western Australia was generally supposed to produce very little; but he might be permitted to inform them that among other things it had produced those two very remarkable explorers, Mr. Frank Gregory and Mr. Augustus Gregory. If not born there, at all events they had been reared and educated in the colony. They learned their craft there before Mr. Augustus Gregory went farther east, and explored towards the Gulf of Carpentaria. He is now placed in a position in Queensland which no doubt would be occupied by him with honour to himself and advantage to the colony.

Western Australia had some very particular traits. They had succeeded in doing, what there was a very strong popular disbelief in in this country—they had turned thieves into honest men. He believed it was the only place and the only means by which such characters could be reformed. It was by a very simple process—because there was nobody to rob and nothing to steal. It was a known fact that upwards of 6000 or 7000 of these characters had been introduced into that part of Australia; and it was a fact which could be

vouched by statistical reports and records of the Colonial Office, that the percentage of crime was as low there as in any other part of Her Majesty's dominions. This arose from the simple reason that these men are compelled to work; compelled to earn their bread; and they had plenty of room to do so. If they had possessed the same advantages in this country, he believed a very great majority of them would never have been criminals at all. Western Australia also produced a remarkable kind of oyster, specimens of which he was happy to lay before the Society, and he was informed that their commercial value was about 140*l.* per ton. He believed if these could be imported into this country, and a commercial relationship of this kind established, that Western Australia would be almost as valuable as the gold districts of Australia. That the Western part of Australia was less rich than others was perfectly true, but he could assure the Society that there were many instances within his own knowledge of men who had struggled hard in this country for an existence—men of the very lowest class—who had succeeded in nine or ten years in obtaining 800*l.* to 1000*l.* a year for their clip of wool. In Western Australia there is plenty of room for labour, and it only required that part to be better known to encourage a larger emigration. Her Majesty's Government had always been most liberal in that respect. It was true they sent convicts, because the colony wanted them, but they at the same time sent as many free men and free women, which counterbalanced the convicts; and, as long as that was satisfactory to this country it would be satisfactory to these colonists: there is plenty of room for ten times as many.

He would just say one word in conclusion, and that was in corroboration of his friend Sir Richard McDonnell, that there is not in that country, as far as he knew, a shadow of a desire for severance from the mother country. He had never been in any part of the world where there was a deeper and more devoted loyalty than in that part of Australia which he had had the honour to govern. He had never heard a dissentient voice upon the subject; but on the contrary, whenever Her Majesty's name had been mentioned, it had always been received with as much enthusiasm as it would be in any assembly of Englishmen at home. He could not understand upon what ground it would be advantageous to have a noble country like that severed from the parent State in the days of its infancy. Such an agitation and such a proposal ought to be deprecated by every sane and honest man in this country. Australia, even as an outlet for our superabundant population, was invaluable; and by a proper and judicious management, by giving the Australians that which Her Majesty's Government, of whatever politics, had hitherto given them—fair play and right of self-government—he had no doubt that they would be as long and as warmly attached to the British Crown as any dependency which owns her sway.

The PRESIDENT expressed his regret that, owing to the late hour, they could not have the pleasure of hearing Colonel Gawler, whom he intended to have called upon, with regard to the question of separation from this country. If it had been stated that some person high in office had given expression to such a sentiment, he knew that Mr. Herman Merivale, the Under Secretary of the Colonies, had read an admirable paper before the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at Cambridge, in which he showed the utter futility of the notion of separation, and how injurious such a separation would be to the mother country. Mr. Merivale had argued the question upon broad statistical grounds; and, for his own part, he was happy to find, from all the authorities who had spoken, that there was not a seceder in the great continent of Australia.

Before adjourning the meeting, he must beg to congratulate them upon having had this interesting discussion on the anniversary of the birthday of the Prince of Wales. He mentioned this circumstance because His Royal Highness was the only heir-apparent—at least within the reach of his recollection in history

—who had made himself so good a geographer by his extensive travels. It was, therefore, well that they should wish him prosperity and long life. Above all, he hoped very soon to be able to announce that His Royal Highness would condescend to accept that post which was held by his illustrious Parent, and become, under Her Majesty, the Vice-Patron of the Royal Geographical Society.

The meeting was then adjourned to Nov. 24th.

*Second Meeting, Monday, November 24th, 1862.*

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*General W. Marcus Coghlan; J. Lewis Franklin, and John Flint South, Esqrs., were presented upon their election.*

ELECTIONS.—*Colonel Thomas Addison, C.B.; Captain Bagot; Lieut.-Colonel G. Clement Baillie, R.E.; Captain C. E. Barrett-Lennard; General W. Marcus Coghlan, R.A.; Commander H. A. Fraser, I.N.; Captain C. Webley Hope, R.N.; Major-General Edward Macarthur, C.B.; Lieutenant Mervyn B. Medlycott, R.N.; Rev. John V. Povah; Captain Leveson E. H. Somerset, R.N.; Captain C. Freville Surtees; John B. Baillie; Lucas Barrett; J. Comber Browne; John Cargill; Walter Cope; Sedgwick S. Cowper; J. H. Eaton; William Eaton; Henry D. Erskine; John Fletcher; James Griffin; Samuel H. Hinde; William Kershaw; Chessborough C. Macdonald; George F. M'Dougall, R.N.; Daniel Mackinly; Francis Muir; Frederick Rasch; John Shaw; John Thomas; P. G. Van der Byl; E. Wingfield Verner; Samuel Woods; and Heathcote Wyndham, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.*

ACCESSIONS.—Among the donations to the Library and Map-rooms since the former meeting were—Markham's 'Travels in Peru and India;' Brine's 'Taeping Rebellion in China;' Dhanjibhai Framji's 'Origin and Authenticity of the Arian Languages;' Barrett-Lennard's 'British Columbia;' Gether's 'Gedanken uber die Naturkraft;' Maps of the Victorian Mining Districts, Australia; Admiralty Charts, &c. &c.

EXHIBITIONS.—Several sketches of natives and zoological specimens, made by the East African Expedition; a sample of Abyssinian cotton, obtained by Dr. Beke, F.R.G.S.; and a specimen of lead from the Bight of Benin, sent by Captain R. F. Burton, F.R.G.S., were exhibited.

The Papers read were—

1. *Exploration of the Niassa Lake.* By DR. LIVINGSTONE and his Party.

AFTER establishing the members of the University Mission in the neighbourhood of Mount Zumbo, Dr. Livingstone proceeded with his party to explore the Lake Niassa. They carried a four-oared